

Jesus Christ is the Great High Priest

The Way to God is now changed forever,

How does a man approach God?

This is the great question of the ages. Why? Because man is sinful and imperfect and God is perfect. Sin and imperfection do not honor God; they dishonor Him.

How can we approach God?

There is only one way: someone has to stand before God for man.

Man has to have some person who is perfect and acceptable to God and who will represent man before God.

(No earthly priest ever has been or ever will be perfect. No earthly priest has ever been able to do anything perfectly or to bring perfection to man.)

Jesus Christ is the only perfect and acceptable Priest who has ever lived. He alone can represent men before God.

There has never been a more religious people than the Jews, God's very own ancient people. Therefore, if the priesthood of Jesus Christ can be shown to be superior to the Jewish Levitical priesthood, His superiority over all earthly priests should be acknowledged. Jesus Christ has changed forever the priesthood of men; He has changed forever the way men are to approach God.

This is the purpose of the present passage, to show the superiority of the priesthood of Jesus Christ, how Jesus Christ has changed the priesthood of men forever. The priesthood of Jesus Christ is superior to the Levitical or Jewish priesthood. And in a most interesting way, this is shown by way of illustration. A story is taken from the Old Testament to illustrate the fact, a story involving Abraham and a king and priest named Melchisedec. Some enemies had attacked Abraham and his people, and Abraham had fought and won the victory. Then seemingly out of nowhere Melchisedec, the priest of God, appeared and refreshed Abraham, giving him bread and wine. In appreciation and thankfulness to God for the victory and for sending the priest to him, Abraham gave Melchisedec ten percent of all the spoils. This is the story—all there is to it. But it is full of meaning as will be seen here in [Hebrews 7](#).

If time allows, it is suggested that this whole outline be preached and taught in one session to keep from losing the thought and meaning of the passage. *Jesus Christ is the greater High Priest—the way to God is now changed forever.*

- [1. The change of our approach to God is illustrated in the historical event of Melchisedec \(v.1-3\).](#)
- [2. The change of our approach to God is seen in the superiority of Melchisedec's priesthood \(v.4-10\).](#)
- [3. The change of our approach to God is seen in Jesus Christ \(v.11-24\).](#)

1. (7:1-3) Priesthood— Melchisedec: the change of our approach to God is illustrated by the priesthood of Melchisedec. Note the historical events of Melchisedec. Four significant facts are mentioned.

1. Melchisedec was the king of Salem which was probably Jerusalem (cp. [Psalm 76:2](#)).

⇒ His name *Melchisedec* means king of *righteousness*.

⇒ His realm of rule, *Salem* or Jerusalem, means king of peace.

⇒ Remember: earthly Jerusalem is a type of the heavenly Jerusalem, that is, of heaven itself ([Hebrews 11:10](#); [Rev. 21:1f](#)).

2. Melchisedec was a priest of the most high God, of the living and true God.

3. Melchisedec was paid tithes by Abraham himself, the very first man to whom God gave His great promise. It happened when Abraham was returning from battle. Almost out of nowhere Melchisedec appeared and refreshed and blessed Abraham by giving him bread and wine and pronouncing a blessing upon him. As a result Abraham gave a tenth of his spoils to the priest in appreciation to God. The significance is this: Abraham, who was to give birth to the priesthood of God's people, paid tithes to a much greater priest, Melchisedec. Remember: Abraham was the father of Levi, the Levi who was to be the first High Priest of Israel and who was to give his name "Levi" to the *Levitical priest*.

4. Melchisedec was an eternal priest just like the Son of God. How can it be said that he was eternal? Because so far as men know, he had no genealogy. There was no record of his roots whatsoever, and this was most unusual. In that day and time it was important for a priest to have a record of his genealogy. If he had no record of a priestly genealogy, he could not serve as a priest. The point is this: there is no record in Scripture of Melchisedec's roots; therefore, he stands as a type of the eternal priest who was to be sent into the world by God, even the Lord Jesus Christ.

"Without father, without mother, without descent, having neither beginning of days, nor end of life; but made like unto the Son of God; abideth a priest continually" ([Hebrews 7:3](#)).

2. ([7:4-10](#)) Priesthood— Melchisedec: the change of our approach to God is seen in the superiority of Melchisedec's priesthood. "Consider how great this man was."

1. First, why is Melchisedec a greater priest than other earthly priests (the Levitical priests)? Because Abraham paid tithes to him ([Hebrews 7:4](#)). Abraham gave him a tenth of the spoils he had taken in battle. Therefore, Melchisedec is greater than Abraham, which means he must be greater than the priests of Israel, for they trace their roots from Abraham.

2. Second, why is Melchisedec a greater priest than other earthly priests (the Levitical priests)? Because he had a special right to the priesthood ([Hebrews 7:5-6a](#)).

⇒ His priesthood was not based upon the legal priesthood of the Levites who received tithes according to the law. He was paid tithes because of his greatness, out of Abraham's heart of appreciation and thankfulness to God.

⇒ His priesthood was not based upon human roots and genealogy. So far as is known from Scripture, he did not come from an organized priesthood. He did not descend from earthly priests.

3. Third, why is Melchisedec a greater priest than other earthly priests (the Levitical priests)? Because he blessed Abraham. As great as Abraham was, he recognized the superiority of Melchisedec and gladly received his blessing. And without dispute, the less is blessed by the greater. Remember: the legal priesthood (the Levitical priests) was in the bosom of Abraham.

4. Fourth, why is Melchisedec a greater priest than other earthly priests (the Levitical priests)? Because as far as the record of Scripture is concerned, he was not mortal but eternal. Here on earth men who receive tithes die, but Melchisedec received

tithes and it is never witnessed or recorded that he died. Therefore, he is the picture of an eternal priest, a far greater priest than any earthly priest.

5. Fifth, why is Melchisedec a greater priest than other earthly priests (the Levitical priesthood)? Because all priests also tithed to him. How could priests who were not yet born be said to have paid tithes to Melchisedec? In Biblical times a man's descendants were considered to be in his bosom. Therefore when Abraham paid tithes to Melchisedec, his great grandson Levi and all his priestly descendants were represented in Abraham. They, too, paid tithes to Melchisedec. Therefore, Melchisedec was a greater priest than the earthly priests of Levi.

Now remember why all this is being written:

- ⇒ to show that men are no longer to approach God through an earthly priesthood and priest.
- ⇒ to show that there is a greater priesthood than that of earthly priests.
- ⇒ to show that earthly religion and earthly priests are inadequate in representing man before God.
- ⇒ to show that God has provided a perfect and eternal Priest to represent man before Him.
- ⇒ to show that the imperfect priesthood of man has been changed; there is now a perfect and an eternal priesthood.

Remember also the points of the illustration of Melchisedec and Abraham. Abraham represented the earthly or Levitical priesthood of the most religious people who ever lived, the Jews. Melchisedec represented the perfect and eternal priesthood, and in representing the eternal priesthood, he pointed toward the priesthood of God's Son, the Lord Jesus Christ. With these basic facts in mind, we are now ready to look at how Jesus Christ has changed our approach to God—at how Jesus Christ is the perfect and eternal Priest who represents man before God.

3. ([7:11-24](#)) Jesus Christ, High Priest— Priesthood: the change of our approach to God is seen in Jesus Christ. He is the perfect and eternal High Priest. Note seven changes in the priesthood that have been wrought by God.

1. There has been a change in the way man seeks perfection, in the way man seeks to become acceptable to God ([Hebrews 7:11](#)). Man has always sought perfection through religion. Man has always sought God through religion, sought to become acceptable to God through religion. Man has used religion to become good enough and perfect enough for God to accept him. And within religion three things have been developed to help man in his search for fellowship with God.

- ⇒ First, there is the law. So long as a person keeps the law, he is thought to be acceptable to God. But if he breaks the law, he is unacceptable to God. And it is this that is the problem, for the thinking and honest man knows that no person can perfectly keep the law. Therefore no person can ever be acceptable to God—not perfectly, not permanently, not forever.
- ⇒ Second, there is the sacrifice for sins. When a person sins, he is guilty; therefore, some sacrifice has to be made for his sins. There has to be a substitute who will bear the person's sins and the guilt for them. There has to be a substitute who will pay the penalty for the person's sins.

⇒ Third, there is the priesthood. There has to be some person who will teach the law and demand obedience to it, and then when man fails, who will offer sacrifice to God for man. There has to be a priest who is acceptable to God and who can stand as a Mediator between God and man. There has to be a priest who can make God accept sinful man.

Now, note [Hebrews 7:11](#). It says clearly that the earthly or Levitical priesthood could not bring perfection to man. The earthly priests who arose from Aaron just could not make man perfect. If they could have, then there would not have been the need for a priest who was perfect and eternal to arise from the priesthood of Melchisedec. Remember: Melchisedec is a priest of the perfect and eternal priesthood, and God promised to send a priest after the order of Melchisedec—a perfect and eternal priest ([Hebrews 6:20](#)). If an earthly priest could make man perfect before God, there would never have been a need for God to make that promise. But there is a need; no matter how often we seek God through earthly priests and ministers, they do not make us perfect. Man desperately needs a perfect and eternal priest. This is the reason God promised the perfect and eternal priesthood of Jesus Christ.

2. There has been a change in the law, and note: the change is said to be an absolute necessity ([Hebrews 7:12](#)). Why? Because the whole ministry of the priesthood has to be changed. That is, the law itself in all its ministry and sacrificial system has to be changed. Why? Because the law cannot make man perfect. No matter how much man tries to keep the law, he fails. And no matter how many sacrifices the priest makes for man, they fail to make man perfect. Why? Because both the priest and the sacrifice are imperfect and mortal. Therefore, everything the priest does is imperfect and mortal. He, an imperfect and mortal priest, handles imperfect and mortal sacrifices. Therefore, his whole ministry is imperfect and mortal. His ministry leaves man imperfect and mortal. He does not make man perfect and eternal; he does not make man acceptable to God. Therefore, there has to be a change in the law, in the way man seeks perfection. There has to be change in the law and legal system of the priesthood. Again, this is the reason God promised a priest forever in the Lord Jesus Christ, a priesthood after the order of the perfect and eternal priesthood of Melchisedec.

3. There has been a change in the origin of the priesthood ([Hebrews 7:13-14](#)). By law the earthly priests had to come from the tribe and roots of Levi. But Jesus Christ, the Person of whom these things are being said, did not come from Levi. He came from the tribe of Juda, and no priest ever came from Juda. Therefore, the priesthood of Jesus Christ belongs to a different order entirely. It does not belong to a human or earthly origin. Jesus Christ is a perfect and eternal priest after the order of Melchisedec.

4. There has been a change in the very qualifications of the priesthood ([Hebrews 7:15-17](#)). Men became priests because they met the qualifications of carnal or earthly laws and rules. They were appointed because they met the legal requirements of the law. But not Christ. He was appointed to be the great High Priest because of His endless life. His "life and immortality which He had in himself were his right and title to the priesthood" (Matthew Henry. *Matthew Henry's Commentary*, Vol. 6, p.919).

The law knew that men were frail and weak, corruptible and dying; hence, even the priests chosen to represent men before God were frail, weak, corruptible, and dying. Therefore, the law laid it down that the priesthood should pass on to the oldest sons. But note: not a single priest—not even all the priests of every generation combined—could give life to a single person. But this is not true with the Lord Jesus Christ. He is a High Priest because of His endless life. He is perfect and eternal; He has an endless life

—the very perfection for which men seek. Therefore, He is qualified to be the Supreme High Priest for man.

5. There has been a change in the way man draws near to God ([Hebrews 7:18-19](#)). Note that the law has been disannulled and cancelled. Why? As shown above in point one, man has always sought to draw near God by law, that is, by being as good as he could and by keeping enough laws to become acceptable to God. But the law is weak and unprofitable because man is weak and sinful. He does not and cannot keep the law; therefore, the law cannot make him perfect and acceptable to God. In fact all the law can do is show man that he is sinful. Every time man looks at the law and is honest, all he sees is that he comes short and is sinful. Therefore, men cannot approach and become acceptable to God by law. If man is to ever become acceptable to God, it has to be by some way other than law. This is the reason the law has been disannulled and cancelled.

But note: If we cannot become acceptable to God by keeping the law and by being as good as we can, how then can we be saved? Is there any way to become acceptable to God? YES—a thousand times YES! God has brought a better hope for man, and it is by this hope that we draw near God. What is that hope? It is the hope for the perfect and eternal High Priest...

- for the High Priest who can offer the perfect and eternal sacrifice for our sins.
- for the High Priest who can present us to God and cause God to accept us.

That High Priest, of course, is Jesus Christ. He is the perfect and eternal priest who is after the order of Melchisedec.

6. There is an oath; God's Word is enough. If God had just spoken the Word of promise—if He had just promised to send the perfect and eternal High Priest to men—that would have been enough. But God did more. He swore that He would fulfill His promise. This is very significant. It means that the priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ shall be exactly as God said it would be. The priesthood of Jesus Christ is doubly sure, for God both promised the perfect and eternal priest and then swore that he would send Him into the world. Note the word *repent* or change. God will never change His mind: Jesus Christ shall remain High Priest forever (cp. [Psalm 110:4](#); [Hebrews 3:1](#)). God has sworn that He will be a priest after the order of Melchisedec.

Note one other fact: this means that Jesus Christ is *the surety of a better testament or covenant*. The old covenant was the law, and as has been seen above, the law never could make man perfect. But now God has given a better covenant to man, the new covenant that is based upon the love and sacrificial death of Jesus Christ. Under the old covenant, men did all they could to approach God by law, being as good as they could. But now, under the new covenant, men approach God through the love and the perfect sacrifice of Jesus Christ for them. When a person accepts the death of Jesus Christ as the sacrifice for his sins, God accepts the sacrifice of Jesus Christ for the man's sin. God takes the person's acceptance of Christ—the person's faith in the sacrifice of Christ—and counts him as having already died in Christ. God counts the man as being free of sin. This is the love of God, the love of the new covenant.

"For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life" ([John 3:16](#)).

"But God commendeth his love toward us, in that, while we were yet sinners, Christ died for us" ([Romans 5:8](#)).

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" ([1 Peter 2:24](#)).

Note this fact: the new covenant is guaranteed. God will accept any person who *truly accepts* the sacrifice of Christ as his own sacrifice. God will forgive his sins because he believes—casts himself—upon the sacrifice of Christ. Jesus Christ was made the surety, the guarantee of a better covenant. What more could man ask of God?

7. There had to be a change in the number of priests. Very simply, every priest among men died. The priesthood was always changing. And most tragic of all: the fact that they died meant that they could not give life to men. They did not know how to keep men from dying, not even themselves. They did not know how to change the dying process. They could not make men perfect and acceptable to God—could not deliver men into a perfect and eternal state before God. But note what Scripture declares:

"But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood" ([Hebrews 7:24](#)).

Jesus Christ lives forever; He has an *endless life* ([Hebrews 7:16](#)). He is the perfect and eternal priest, the endless priest who lives forever. Therefore, He can carry men before God forever. His priesthood never changes; He is the unchangeable Priest who can represent men before God throughout all eternity. He makes men acceptable to God forever and ever.

"Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people" ([Hebrews 2:17](#)).

"Seeing then that we have a great High Priest, that is passed into the heavens, Jesus the Son of God, let us hold fast our profession. For we have not an High Priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin" ([Hebrews 4:14-15](#)).

"Whither the forerunner is for us entered, even Jesus, made an High Priest for ever after the order of Melchisedec" ([Hebrews 6:20](#)).

"Wherefore he is able also to save them to the uttermost that come unto God by him, seeing he ever liveth to make intercession for them. For such an High Priest became us, who is holy, harmless, undefiled, separate from sinners, and made higher than the heavens" ([Hebrews 7:25-26](#)).

"Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an High Priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens" ([Hebrews 8:1](#)).

"Having therefore, brethren, boldness to enter into the holiest by the blood of Jesus, by a new and living way, which he hath consecrated for us, through the veil, that is to say, his flesh; and having an High Priest over the house of God; let us draw near with a true heart in full assurance of faith, having our hearts sprinkled from an evil conscience, and our bodies washed with pure water" ([Hebrews 10:19-22](#)).

THE SUPREME MINISTER

Hebrews 8:1—*Now of the things which we have spoken this is the sum: We have such an high priest, who is set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens; 2-A **minister** of the sanctuary, and of the true tabernacle, which the Lord pitched, and not man.*

6—*But now hath he obtained a more excellent ministry, by how much also he is the mediator of a better covenant, which was established upon better promises.*

I. JESUS CHRIST—The Son of God is the Supreme Minister

a. Jesus Christ is the Minister exalted to Great High Priest

Heb 3:1—*Wherefore, holy brethren, partakers of the heavenly calling, consider the Apostle and High Priest of our profession, Christ Jesus;*

10:10—*By the which will we are sanctified through the offering of the body of Jesus Christ once for all*

13:8—*Jesus Christ the same yesterday, and to day, and for ever.*

21—*Make you perfect in every good work to do his will, working in you that which is wellpleasing in his sight, through Jesus Christ; to whom be glory for ever and ever. Amen.*

b. **Jesus Christ** hath obtained a more excellent Ministry

c. **Jesus Christ** is the Mediator of a better Covenant.

II. JESUS CHRIST—The One and only True Great High Priest

A. Jesus Christ the exalted Great High Priest: "*set on the right hand of the throne of the Majesty in the heavens*"

"This is the sum."—means chief point, major thrust, and principle thought.

Jesus Christ is the great High Priest; He is the One who stands between God and man, the only Person who can make man acceptable to God.

What is the major thrust and principle thought of Christ's Great High Priesthood?

It is *ministry*.

Jesus Christ is the *great Minister* of God, the One who ministers both in heaven and upon earth for man.

Jesus Christ is the Supreme Minister who ministers day and night for man.

What is the great ministry of Jesus Christ?

1. The Minister of the Heavenly Priesthood
2. The Great High Priest set on the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens
3. The Minister of the True Tabernacle
4. The Minister of gifts and sacrifices of men to God.
5. The Pattern for all Ministry

Jesus Christ Ministers as The Great High Priest of the heavenly priesthood.

There are qualifications for being a minister on earth; a man has to meet certain conditions in order to serve as an earthly priest. So it is in heaven and for God. If someone is going to stand before God for man, that someone has to meet certain conditions.

Jesus Christ The Great High Priest meets the qualifications.

1. He must be perfect, faithful and true to God
Hebrews 2:17; 3:1-2; 5:8-9; 7:11,19
2. He must be merciful and become the sacrificial Lamb of God for man sin's
Hebrews 2:17; 7:27
3. He has to live as a man and overcome all the trials and temptations of men without sin.
Hebrews 2:18; 4:14-15; 7:26
4. He has to succor, actually feel, man's infirmities, with compassion and mercy to help when needed.
Hebrews 2:18; 4:15-16
5. He has to be appointed and ordained by God to be the High Priest in heaven
Hebrews 5:5-6; 7:28
6. He has to become the perfect author of eternal salvation
Hebrews 5:9
7. He has to be the priest who is after the order of Melchisedec and not after the order of earthly priests
Hebrews 5:6;10;6:20; 7:11,21
8. He has to be the forerunner beyond the veil into the throne of heaven
Hebrews 6:20
9. He has to be eternal, that is, have an "endless life"
Hebrews 7:16; 7:17; 7:3; 7:24; 7:28
10. He has to live forever to make intercession for those who come to God by Him
Hebrews 7:25

11. He has to be exalted to the right hand of God
Hebrews 7:25-26; 8:1
12. He must meet all requirements to Perfection, He is exalted Highest in the
heavens humbled lowest in the earth. Hebrews 8:1-2,6; 9:24,28; 13:12-13;
(Mat. 21:9; Mark 11:10)

JESUS CHRIST MEETS ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE THE PERFECT GREAT HIGH PRIEST OF HEAVEN.

Jesus Christ is the **Minister** of the heavenly Priesthood. We must be qualified to take place with Him,

"this is the sum"—this is the chief point, the major emphasis.

No one that ever is given place with Him will ever take His place. He alone will be Great High Priest. Heb 7:24 But this man, because he continueth ever, hath an unchangeable priesthood (His Part is set)

1Peter 2:5 Ye also, as lively stones, are built up a spiritual house, an holy priesthood, to offer up spiritual sacrifices, acceptable to God by Jesus Christ. 9 But ye are a chosen generation, a royal priesthood, an holy nation, a peculiar people; that ye should shew forth the praises of him who hath called you out of darkness into his marvellous light: Rev. 1:6 And hath made us kings and priests unto God and his Father; to him be glory and dominion for ever and ever. Amen.
5:10 And hast made us unto our God kings and priests: and we shall reign on the earth.

B. Ministering as Great High Priest

Jesus Christ is the exalted High Priest; He sits on the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens.

Hebrews 1:9 Thou hast loved righteousness, and hated iniquity; therefore God, even thy God, hath anointed thee with the oil of gladness above thy fellows.

Mark 16:9 Now when Jesus was risen early the first day of the week, he appeared first to Mary Magdalene, out of whom he had cast seven devils.

Luke 22:69 Hereafter shall the Son of man sit on the right hand of the power of God.

Acts 2:36 Therefore let all the house of Israel know assuredly, that God hath made that same Jesus, whom ye have crucified, both Lord and Christ.

Acts 5:31 Him hath God exalted with his right hand to be a Prince and a Saviour, for to give repentance to Israel, and forgiveness of sins.

Eph 1:20 Which he wrought in Christ, when he raised him from the dead, and set him at his own right hand in the heavenly places,

Php 2:9 Wherefore God also hath highly exalted him, and given him a name which is above every name:

1Tim. 6:15 Which in his times he shall shew, who is the blessed and only Potentate, the King of kings, and Lord of lords;

1Peter 3:22 Who is gone into heaven, and is on the right hand of God; angels and authorities and powers being made subject unto him.

Rev. 5:12 Saying with a loud voice, Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to receive power, and riches, and wisdom, and strength, and honour, and glory, and blessing.

III. JESUS CHRIST—the Minister of the heavenly sanctuary. He is the exalted High Priest in heaven, but that is not all that He is. He is also the exalted Minister of the sanctuary. He is not in heaven just to rule as Lord and to receive the honor and worship. He is there ruling and reigning who can be known and reached by His people.

Jesus Christ is in heaven to reign in majesty and glory to be the Minister of the true sanctuary true worship.

We can come to God through Him.

We can receive mercy and grace to help in times of need.

We are saved to the uttermost.

He represents us as the sacrificial offering for our sins.

He delivers us from all the trials and temptations of this corrupt and dying world.

He receives worship and praise of people and offers their names up to God.

He sent the Holy Ghost to minister the Word of God to our hearts.

Jesus Christ is listening and hearing the cries of people and ministering to all our needs

Hebrews 2:17 Wherefore in all things it behoved him to be made like unto his brethren, that he might be a merciful and faithful high priest in things pertaining to God, to make reconciliation for the sins of the people.

18 For in that he himself hath suffered being tempted, he is able to succour them that are tempted.

4:15 For we have not an high priest which cannot be touched with the feeling of our infirmities; but was in all points tempted like as we are, yet without sin.

16 Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and find grace to help in time of need.

Psalms 40:17 But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God.

"But I am poor and needy; yet the Lord thinketh upon me: thou art my help and my deliverer; make no tarrying, O my God" ([Psalm 40:17](#)).

"Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness" ([Isaiah 41:10](#)).

4. (8:3) Jesus Christ, Minister: Jesus Christ is the exalted Minister who offers the gifts and sacrifices of men to God. This is what is meant by this verse. The very purpose for High Priests was to offer gifts and sacrifices on behalf of men. High Priests were appointed; the very reason for their existence was to offer these gifts and sacrifices so

that God would accept men. By making such offerings it was felt that God would be pleased, and He would approve men for heaven.

The point is this: Jesus Christ is now the High Priest, the One who is to offer the gifts and sacrifices of men to God. But note: as seen in earlier passages, only perfect gifts and offerings are acceptable to God. And no man has a perfect gift and sacrifice to offer to God. What then can be done? If Jesus Christ is our great High Priest, He has to have something to offer for us. As this verse says, "It is of necessity that this man have something also to offer." But what could He offer? There was only one thing: He had to offer Himself, for He is the only gift and sacrifice in the world that is perfect. Therefore, Christ offered Himself as the perfect gift and sacrifice to God. And He did it for us. This is the critical point: Jesus Christ offered Himself as the gift and sacrifice for us. He gave Himself for man—gave Himself as man's gift and sacrifice to God. What an unbelievable thing to do! But Jesus Christ did it.

⇒ He Himself *actually became* our gift and sacrifice to God.

⇒ He *actually offered* Himself as our gift and sacrifice to God.

Jesus Christ is the exalted Minister who offers the gifts and sacrifices of men to God.

"Who gave himself for our sins, that he might deliver us from this present evil world, according to the will of God and our Father" ([Galatians 1:4](#)).

"And walk in love, as Christ also hath loved us, and hath given himself for us an offering and a sacrifice to God for a sweetsmelling savour" ([Ephes. 5:2](#)).

"Who gave himself for us, that he might redeem us from all iniquity, and purify unto himself a peculiar people, zealous of good works" ([Titus 2:14](#)).

"For then must he often have suffered since the foundation of the world: but now once in the end of the world hath he appeared to put away sin by the sacrifice of himself. And as it is appointed unto men once to die, but after this the judgment: so Christ was once offered to bear the sins of many; and unto them that look for him shall he appear the second time without sin unto salvation" ([Hebrews 9:26-28](#)).

"Forasmuch as ye know that ye were not redeemed with corruptible things, as silver and gold, from your vain conversation [behavior] received by tradition from your fathers; but with the precious blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot" ([1 Peter 1:18-19](#)).

"Who his own self bare our sins in his own body on the tree, that we, being dead to sins, should live unto righteousness: by whose stripes ye were healed" ([1 Peter 2:24](#)).

"For Christ also hath once suffered for sins, the just for the unjust, that he might bring us to God, being put to death in the flesh, but quickened by the Spirit" ([1 Peter 3:18](#)).

"Hereby perceive we the love of God, because he laid down his life for us: and we ought to lay down our lives for the brethren" ([1 John 3:16](#)).

"And from Jesus Christ, who is the faithful witness, and the first begotten of the dead, and the prince of the kings of the earth. Unto him that loved us, and washed us from our sins in his own blood" ([Rev. 1:5](#)).

5. (8:4-5) Jesus Christ, Minister— Heaven— Tabernacle, Earthly: Jesus Christ is the exalted Minister of the real, heavenly world. This is the meaning of these two verses. Verse four simply says that if Christ was a priest on earth, He would not be a priest at all. He simply was not born of the priestly tribe of men, the Levite tribe. And no man could serve as priest unless he was born into the priestly family.

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Note: there is a real world, a heavenly world, and there is a tabernacle, a throne room in which the glorious presence of God dwells. It was the pattern from which Moses made the earthly tabernacle (cp. [Exodus 25:40](#)). God had shown Moses the real pattern of heavenly worship and told him to make a copy of it upon earth. That is what the tabernacle was that was carried around by Israel in the wilderness wanderings.

The point is this: earthly priests can only give us the shadow and picture of heaven. But Jesus Christ is the Priest and Minister of the heavenly worship, of the real world. Therefore, He is the One who can lead men into heaven, into the world that is real and perfect and that has no end. He is the One who can lead us into the very presence of God.

"But lay up for yourselves treasures in heaven, where neither moth nor rust doth corrupt, and where thieves do not break through nor steal" ([Matthew 6:20](#)).

"Notwithstanding in this rejoice not, that the spirits are subject unto you; but rather rejoice, because your names are written in heaven" ([Luke 10:20](#)).

"In my Father's house are many mansions: if it were not so, I would have told you. I go to prepare a place for you" ([John 14:2](#)).

"But he, being full of the Holy Ghost, looked up stedfastly into heaven, and saw the glory of God, and Jesus standing on the right hand of God, and said, Behold, I see the heavens opened, and the Son of man standing on the right hand of God" ([Acts 7:55-56](#)).

"It was therefore necessary that the patterns of things in the heavens should be purified with these; but the heavenly things themselves with better sacrifices than these" ([Hebrews 9:23](#)).

"For he looked for a city which hath foundations, whose builder and maker is God" ([Hebrews 11:10](#)).

"By faith he forsook Egypt, not fearing the wrath of the king: for he endured, as seeing him who is invisible" ([Hebrews 11:27](#)).

"After this I beheld, and, lo, a great multitude, which no man could number, of all nations, and kindreds, and people, and tongues, stood before the throne, and before the Lamb, clothed with white robes, and palms in their hands" ([Rev. 7:9](#)).

"Blessed are they that do his commandments, that they may have right to the tree of life, and may enter in through the gates into the city" ([Rev. 22:14](#)).

Christ The True High Priest

THE SUPREME MINISTER: JESUS CHRIST, GOD'S SON,

I. Christ the True High Priest

A. His Entrance into the True Tabernacle

Christ is the Exalted High Priest: A Heavenly, Spiritual Ministry,

(8:1-5) "This is the sum."—means chief point, major thrust, and principle thought. The writer is about to give the major thrust and principle thought of the High Priesthood of the Lord Jesus Christ. Jesus Christ is the great High Priest; He is the One who stands between God and man, the only Person who can make man acceptable to God. What is the major thrust and principle thought of His High Priesthood? ***It is ministry.*** Jesus Christ is the *great Minister* of God, the One who ministers both in heaven and upon earth for man. Both places are significant. Jesus Christ is the great Minister, the Supreme Minister who ministers day and night for man in both heaven and earth.

- Jesus Christ is the Minister of a heavenly, spiritual priesthood, v.1-5.
 - o He is the exalted High Priest: at the right hand of God's throne (v.1).
 - o He is the exalted Minister: of the true tabernacle (v.2).
 - o He is the exalted minister who offers the gifts and sacrifices of men to God (v.3).
 - o He is the exalted minister of the real, heavenly world (v.4-5).

1. (8:1) Jesus Christ, Minister— High Priesthood: Jesus Christ is the perfect High Priest, the Minister of a heavenly, spiritual priesthood.

There are qualifications for being a priest on earth; a man has to meet certain conditions in order to serve as an earthly priest. So it is in heaven and for God.

The Lord Jesus Christ meets every one of these requirements.

- ⇒ He has to be perfect, completely faithful and true to God ([Hebrews 2:17](#); [Hebrews 3:1-2](#); [Hebrews 5:8-9](#); [Hebrews 7:11](#); [Hebrews 7:19](#)).
- ⇒ He has to be merciful and become the sacrifice for man's sins—become the sacrificial Lamb of God for man ([Hebrews 2:17](#); [Hebrews 7:27](#)).
- ⇒ He has to live as a man and undergo all the trials and temptations of men and conquer them all without ever sinning. He has to be sinless ([Hebrews 2:18](#); [Hebrews 4:14-15](#); [Hebrews 7:26](#)).
- ⇒ He has to succor, actually feel, man's infirmities and have compassion for man. He has to show mercy and help man when he needs help ([Hebrews 2:18](#); [Hebrews 4:15-16](#)).
- ⇒ He has to be appointed and ordained by God to be the High Priest in heaven ([Hebrews 5:5-6](#); [Hebrews 7:28](#)).
- ⇒ He has to become the perfect author of eternal salvation ([Hebrews 5:9](#)).
- ⇒ He has to be the priest who is after the order of Melchisedec and not after the order of earthly priests ([Hebrews 5:6, 10](#); [Hebrews 6:20](#); [Hebrews 7:11](#); [Hebrews 7:21](#)).
- ⇒ He has to be the forerunner into heaven ([Hebrews 6:20](#)).
- ⇒ He has to be eternal, that is, have an "endless life" ([Hebrews 7:16](#); [Hebrews 7:17](#); cp. [Hebrews 7:3](#); [Hebrews 7:24](#); [Hebrews 7:28](#)).
- ⇒ He has to live forever to make intercession for those who come to God by Him ([Hebrews 7:25](#)).

JESUS CHRIST MEETS ALL THE QUALIFICATIONS TO BE THE PERFECT HIGH PRIEST OF HEAVEN.

Jesus Christ is the Minister of the heavenly spiritual priesthood. No one else is qualified—no one has ever been or ever will be qualified except Him. Now again, note the words, "this is the sum"—this is the chief point, the major emphasis of all that has been said.

2. (8:1) Jesus Christ, Exaltation— High Priesthood— Minister: Jesus Christ is the exalted High Priest; He sits on the right hand of the Majesty in the heavens. There He sits with the Sovereign Majesty of the universe, with God Himself, ruling and reigning with all authority and power both in heaven and earth. There He sits in all the glory and honor, dominion and power of God Himself.

3. (8:2) Jesus Christ, Minister— Sanctuary, Heavenly— Tabernacle, Heavenly: Jesus Christ is the exalted Minister of God, the Minister of the sanctuary of heaven. He is the exalted High Priest in heaven, but that is not all that He is. He is also the exalted Minister of the sanctuary. He is not in heaven just to rule as Lord and to receive the honor and worship of subjects throughout the universe. He is not there ruling and reigning from a far distance, a Lord who can never be known or reached by His people. It is true that Jesus Christ is in heaven to reign in majesty and glory, but He is also in heaven to be the Minister of heaven, to be the Minister of the true sanctuary and tabernacle or place of worship. He is there...

- to receive us as we come to God.
- to hear our cries for mercy and grace to help in times of need.
- to save us to the uttermost.
- to represent us as the sacrificial offering for our sins.
- to deliver us from all the trials and temptations of this corruptible and dying world.
- to minister the Word of God to our hearts.

Jesus Christ is not in heaven selfishly enjoying the wonder and glory of its sanctuary; He is not in heaven selfishly soaking up all its glory for Himself. Jesus Christ is in heaven ministering—looking after and reaching out to people...

- He is listening and hearing the cries of people and ministering to their needs. In fact, He is ministering to every need that God's people have.
- He is receiving the worship and praise of people and offering their names up to God.

Jesus Christ is actively ministering and looking after the true sanctuary and the true tabernacle, the real place where men are to worship, that is, heaven itself. (Note: the true sanctuary and tabernacle means that part of heaven where God sits upon His throne, where the very presence of God is. It is the very place where men are to offer their worship and praise to God. It is the place where Christ ministers as the High Priest before God.)

4. (8:3) Jesus Christ, Minister: Jesus Christ is the exalted Minister who offers the gifts and sacrifices of men to God. This is what is meant by this verse. The very purpose for High Priests was to offer gifts and sacrifices on behalf of men. High Priests were appointed; the very reason for their existence was to offer these gifts and sacrifices so that God would accept men. By making such offerings it was felt that God would be pleased, and He would approve men for heaven.

The point is this: Jesus Christ is now the High Priest, the One who is to offer the gifts and sacrifices of men to God. But note: as seen in earlier passages, only perfect gifts and offerings are acceptable to God. And no man has a perfect gift and sacrifice to offer to God. What then can be done? If Jesus Christ is our great High Priest, He has to have something to offer for us. As this verse says, "It is of necessity that this man have something also to offer." But what could He offer? There was only one thing: He had to offer Himself, for He is the only gift and sacrifice in the world that is perfect. Therefore, Christ offered Himself as the perfect gift and sacrifice to God. And He did it for us. This is the critical point: Jesus Christ offered Himself as the gift and sacrifice for us. He gave Himself for man—gave Himself as man's gift and sacrifice to God. What an unbelievable thing to do! But Jesus Christ did it.

⇒ He Himself *actually became* our gift and sacrifice to God.

⇒ He *actually offered* Himself as our gift and sacrifice to God.

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